

2014-2015

Modes of Reading

First Formative Essay: Close Reading

Make sure you have read the information provided on the 'Formative Essays' web page.

Choose any ONE passage from below and write an essay, not exceeding 2,000 words, focusing on close textual reading. You may wish to comment on the literary discourse, point of view, use of images, symbols, allegory and metaphors, event and situation, voice, narrative technique, characterization, the space and time coordinates of the extract, literary allusions, tradition and innovation of form, among a range of other issues.

The page numbers given may differ slightly in your edition.

- A. Extract begins with 'Mrs Rundle was fat, old and ugly...'.
Extract ends with 'Misled by his appearance, his parents loaded his bookcase with Biggles books, which gathered dust unopened' (3-5).

- B. Extract begins with 'She and Victoria were to sleep one storey below Jonathon...'.
Extract ends with "'We can have supper now, and you'll be the belle of the ball'" (44-46).

- C. Extract begins with 'Melanie, a few paces behind Finn, trod carefully...'.
Extract ends with 'Then it would seem romantic' (103-106).

- D. Extract begins with 'She looked at it idly at first and then with increasing curiosity...'.
Extract ends with 'A series of thumps from the next room indicated Finn was practising cartwheels or somersaults' (108-110).

- E. Extract begins with "'I'm covered with earth", he said...'.
Extract ends with "'Take your socks off, Finn. They're wet. You'll catch cold'" (170-174).